

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Jim SMIT et al.

Serial No.: 09/919,919

Filed: August 2, 2001

INSULATION PLUG FOR UNDERWATER PELLETIZER DIE FACE RECESS

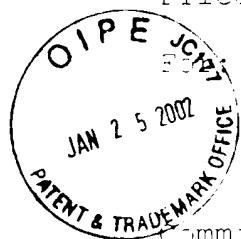
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

As a means of complying with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR §1.56, and in accordance with 37 CFR §§1.97 and 1.98, Applicant(s), through the undersigned attorney, submits this Information Disclosure Statement. The patents, publications or other information submitted herewith are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and copies are attached. The Examiner is requested to make these references of record in the file of this application.

In addition to the patents identified on the attached Form PTO-1449, the insulation plug, disclosed in Figures 1-5 of the drawings and the related description in the specification of the instant application, was tested by one of the Applicants at his place of business on a commercial underwater pelletizing line manufactured by Assignee more than one year prior to the filing date of the instant application, i.e. before August 2, 2000. Such testing activity on a commercial underwater pelletizing line over



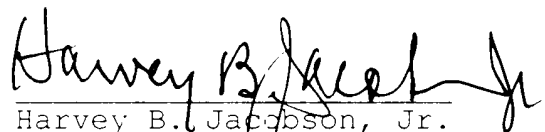
a period of time was necessary in order to test the invention and demonstrate its efficacy over the prior art insulation in the commercial production of polymer pellets. Further information can be provided, if requested by the Examiner.

The drawing (Reference AS) illustrates the commercial insulation material described in the specification, at page 2, lines 13 - page 3, line 4, of the instant application and was available commercially more than one year prior to the instant application filing date.

In accordance with 37 CFR §1.97(b)(3), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits of the above-identified application.

Respectfully submitted,

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